However, Public/Cooperative units under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers have to obtain the approval of the Government for incurring capital expenditure required for setting up a new fertilizer plant, if the investment is in excess of their delegated financial powers. The following major fertilizer projects formulated by Public Sector Units/Co-operatives have been posed for investment approval as per the prescribed procedure:

(i)	Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd.	Grassroot Urea plant at Nellore, Andhra Pradesh
(ii)	Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd.	(a) New Urea plant at Gorakhpur, U.P. (using the infrastructure of the Gorakhpur plant of Fertilizer Corporation of India). (b) Hazira Phase-II Project for expanding the capacity of the plant at Hazira, Gujarat.
(iii)	Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd.	Expansion of urea capacity of the Thal plant.
(iv)	National Fertilizers Ltd.	Expansion of urea capacity of the plant at Panipat.

Fertilizer Plants in Public Private and Cooperative Sectors

1822. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of fertilizer plants in the public, private and co-operative sectors in the country;

(b) the number of plants out of them lying closed;

(c) the extent to which production of fertilizers is reduced due to closure of the said plants;

(d) the action taken by Government to revive the closed plants and to set up new fertilizer plants;

(e) whether Government have reviewed the performance of various undertakings functioning under the Ministry; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof, undertaking-wise and the assistance provided to those undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A.K. PATEL): (a) There are 63 large sized fertilizer units in the private, public and co-operative sector in the country.

(b) and (c) Production at the following plants has had to be discontinued for reasons of safety/feedstock limitation or unviability;

1. Ammonia-Urea plant of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) at Gorakhpur

2. Ammonium Sulphate plant of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) at Namrup-I

3. Ammonia-Urea plant of HFC at Namrup-II

4. Urea-I plant of Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd. (RCF) at Trombay.

In the case of Namrup-I plant of HFC and Trombay-I plant of RCF, there is no net loss of production as the ammonia produced in these plants is being utilised to produce fertilizers in the same complex.

Based on the average production achieved by the Gorakhpur plant of FCI and Namrup-II plant of HFC during a period of three years preceding the discontinuance of production, the cumulative loss of production upto 31.3.98 is 8.33 lakh tonnes of nitrogen.

The production operations of the Durgapur unit of HFC were suspended by the Management on 24.6.97 after a fire in the primary reformer top. Based on the

average production achieved during the years 1994-95 to 1996-97, the estimated loss of production in this unit is 0.18 lakh tonnes of nitrogen.

(d) The Government has approved the revival package for Namrup units of HFC at an estimated fresh investment of Rs.350 crore. Arrangements have also been made for augmenting the supply of natural gas to these units. The Ammonium Sulphate plant of Namrup-I is to be scrapped as it has been found to be unviable and unsafe to operate.

The revival of Gorakhpur plant of FCI has not been found techno-economically feasible. KRIBHCO has submitted a proposal under the prescribed investment approval procedure for setting up a modern standard ammonia urea plant at Gorakhpur using the existing infrastructure of the FCI plant.

The restart of RCF's Trombay-I urea plant requiring major repairs has not been found techno-economically viable and the company has decided not to operate this plant.

The resource constraints of HFC have not permitted it to undertake the substantial capital investment required for carrying out major repairs/renovation for restarting production in the Durgapur unit.

As per the Industrial Policy Statement issued by the Government on 24.7.91, no industrial licence is required for setting up a fertilizer plant. However, public/cooperative units (PSUs/CSU) under the administrative control of the Department of Fertilizers have to obtain the approval of the Government for incurring capital expenditure required for setting up a new fertilizer plant, if the investment is in excess of their delegated financial powers. The following major fertilizer projects formulated by PSUs/CSU have been posed for investment approval as per the prescribed procedure:

(i) Indian Farmers Fertilizer Coop Ltd.	Grassroot plant at Nellore, Andhra Pradesh
(ii) Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd.	(a) New urea plant at Gorakhpur, UP (using the infrastructure of the Gorakhpur plant of FCI)
	(b) Hazira Phase-II Project for expanding the capacity of the plant at Hazira, Gujarat
(iii) Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Ltd.	Expansion of urea capacity of the Thal plant.
(iv) National Fertilizers Ltd.	Expansion of urea capacity of the plant at Panipat

(e) and (f) The performance of the PSUs/CSU of the fertilizer sector is reviewed from time to time. The net profits/losses made by these undertakings in 1997-98 are as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of PSU/CSU	1997-98 (Prov)
1.	NFL	191.86
2.	FACT	50.25
3.	RCF	174.39
4.	PPL	(–) 110.29
5.	MFL	(–) 60.77
6.	PPCL	(–) 14.78
7.	FCI	(–) 696.59
8.	HFC	(–) 580.70
9.	PDIL	6.90
10.	IFFCO	429.96
11.	KRIBHCO	303.16

Within the constraints of budgetary resources, Government has been providing support to the loss making fertilizer PSUs to enable them to meet their working capital requirements and/or critical capital expenditure. In 1997-98, the budgetary support extended to the PSUs has been as follows:

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of PSUs	1997-98
1.	HFC	184.34
2.	FCI	318.15
3.	PPL	15.00
4.	PPCL	6.00
5.	PDIL	2.00
6.	FACT	37.88

Disinvestment of shares in profit-making Public Sector Units

1823. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to disinvest the profit making public sector units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether FACT Udyogamandal (Kerala) has been enlisted for disinvestment; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A. K. PATEL): (a) to (d) The Government has referred 50 Public Sector Enterprises to the Disinvestment Commission for consideration. These included profit making enterprises as well as those which have been incurring losses. The Commission has so far given its recommendations in respect of 41 of these Public Sector Enterprises including Fertiliser and Travancore Limited (FACT). The recommendations of the Commission are advisory in nature. The decision of the Government on the recommendations of the Commission will be taken keeping all aspects in view.

Import of Bulk Drugs

1824. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are importing bulk drugs;

(b) if so, since when and the amount of bulk drugs imported during last three years; and

(c) the year-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. A. K. PATEL): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

भारत-ओमान संयुक्त उर्वरक परियोजना

1825. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:**
श्री गोपालसिंह जी॰ सोलंकी:

क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान विगत एक माह से अंग्रेजी दैनिक "दि पॉयनियर" में भारत-ओमान संयुक्त उर्वरक परियोजना से संबंधित प्रकाशित हुए समाचारों की ओर दिलाया गया है, जिनमें बड़े पैमाने पर हुए वित्तीय गबन तथा घोटालों का पर्दाफाश किया गया है;

(ख) इन समाचारों के प्रति अब तक सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया रही है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इस प्रकरण की कोई उच्च-स्तरीय जांच करायी है अथवा करायी जा रही है; और

(घ) क्या सरकार ने उक्त संयुक्त परियोजना से संबंधित सभी दस्तावेज सभा पटल पर रखने का कोई निर्णय लिया है?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा॰ ए॰ के॰ पटेल): (क) और (ख) सरकार का ध्यान हाल ही में "पायनियर" में प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है जिसमें ओमान इंडियन फर्टिलाइजर प्रोजेक्ट (ओआईएफपी) के लिये इन्जीनियरिंग, अधिप्राप्ति और निर्माण (ईपीसी) ठेके हेतु वरीय बोलीदाता के चयन में अनियमितताओं तथा परियोजना